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Downtown Sweep Nets 12 Arrests

For Immediate Release

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(September 30, 2004- TROY)- Responding to complaints from residents and business owners, the Troy Police SOS Unit, with the help of Community Police, New York State Police CNET, New York State Division of Parole, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Rensselaer County Drug and Gang Taskforce, and the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department continued a crackdown on crime with the arrest of 12 individuals Wednesday night for a variety of offenses ranging from drugs to prostitution.

The following people were charged during the sweep, which lasted from 7:45 p.m. to 11 p.m.:

- Elizabeth J. Getsch - homeless - Prostitution, Loitering 1st Degree
- Tammy J. DeJesus - 84 Phelan Court - Prostitution
- Daniel B. Ising - 87 Phelan Court - Loitering 1st
- Keith F. Levens - 1030 2nd St. Watervliet - Loitering 1st, Failure to Appear warrant
- Avery L. Simmons - 13 State St. - Loitering 1st
- Robert J. Griego - 8 Central Ave. Troy - Criminal Solicitation
- Mark J. Vroman - 48 Rankin Ave. Troy - Loitering 1st
- Nicholas C. Berghela - 268 Menemsha Lane Wynantskill - Loitering 1st
- Michele H. Warren - 250 4th St. - Loitering 1st
- Justin A. Ildefonso - 2265 6th Ave. - Loitering 1st, Violation of Parole
- Ronald E Coleman - 1615 Highland Ave. - Loitering 1st
- Rasheem R. Alston - 308 Madison St. Troy - Criminal Possession of Controlled Substance, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle 3rd

Troy Mayor Harry Tutunjian said the sweep is another example of his pledge to make the streets of Troy safer.

"During my first few months in office we strived to make the streets of Troy cleaner than ever," Tutunjian said. "I pledged at that time that cleaner streets would lead to safer streets, and that will be true. We are continually conducting stings and sweeps, not just a spring cleanup here or there, but a tougher policy on crime all together. It is working and the continued patience of residents is appreciated."

Police Chief Nicholas Kaiser assured residents Wednesday that the officers were doing their jobs well, and the City is starting to see the results.

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"I want to assure our citizens of our deep commitment to relentless enforcement of our laws," Kaiser said. "We are utilizing every resource at our disposal to rid our streets of an undesirable element. Change takes time, but it will be time well spent in the end."

In the past month, Troy Police have conducted sweeps across the City in traffic safety, prostitution, guns, and drug sales areas. Last week, a downtown sting concerning prostitution resulted in the arrests of 13 individuals.

"Sooner, rather than later, people will get the message that we are serious about improving safety in our City," Tutunjian said. "The more and more they hear about sweeps like Wednesday night, the more that message gets relayed."